

# ENGL 360

# Contemporary Poetry

HH 210

Tu/Th 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.

Spring 2012

Dr. Robert C. Hanna

HH 223

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**Note: This syllabus may be modified by the professor, as circumstances warrant. Students will be advised should any such modifications be made.**

## Course Description

A survey of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century British and American poetry, examined by theme, structure, genre, purpose, and literary movement. The course includes historical context for dramatic and narrative poetry, fictional context for poetry found within novels and short stories, relationships between poetic techniques and meaning, relationships between poetry and music, and an analysis of the cultural roles of poetry.

The course may be selected for partial fulfillment of both the English major and English minor, and it may be included among the upper division courses required for graduation.

## Required Literature (Titles *must* be edition and ISBN indicated)

*Murder in the Cathedral*

T. S. Eliot

Harvest Book/Harcourt (1963)

ISBN 978-0-15-663277-5

*The Ballad of the White Horse*

G. K. Chesterton

Dover Publications (2010)

ISBN 978-0-486-47563-9

*Imagist Poetry: An Anthology*

Bob Blaisdell, ed.

Dover Publications (1999)

ISBN 978-0-486-40875-0

## **Course Objectives**

1. Students are able to adjust their use of . . . written language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes. [from English Department Objectives]
2. Students demonstrate basic cultural literacy of the era, genres, movements (literary and philosophical), and historical events pertinent to particular course content, and can identify correctly allusions, excerpts from particular works, and works written by key authors. [from English Department Objectives]
3. Students can ask effective questions about and of texts [and] questions that situate texts in relation to the cultural, social, and historical contexts in which they were produced, as well as in relation to students' contemporary contexts. [from English Department Objectives]
4. Students exhibit a . . . competency of . . . knowledge of literary terminology. [from English Department Objectives]
5. Students develop an appreciation for . . . literature so that as educated young people they will lead more full and satisfying lives. [from Objectives of the College]
6. Students increase their ability to use written . . . English effectively. [from Objectives of the College]

## **Student Learning Outcomes [SLO]**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify correctly allusions taken directly from course literature. [from Course Objective 2]
2. Identify correctly excerpts from course literature. [from Course Objective 2]
3. Identify correctly excerpts from course authors. [from Course Objective 2]
4. Define literary terminology and then apply it to texts for evaluating its usage by course authors. [from Course Objective 4]
5. Ask effective questions of the various texts selected for this course. [from Course Objective 3]
6. Write persuasively about a genre, a literary movement, and a philosophical movement. [from Course Objectives 1, 2, and 6]
7. Demonstrate basic cultural literacy. [from Course Objective 2]
8. Demonstrate an appreciation of poetry. [from Course Objective 5]

## Course Requirements

### I. Reading Assignments

The student is expected to complete each reading assignment in advance of its presentation in class.

### II. Attendance and Participation [a measurement of SLO 4, 5, and 7]

Attendance in this course is required, as is participation. Students should note that even excused absences prevent participation. Students who do not satisfactorily participate in class on a voluntary basis as a result of not being in class should expect to receive a lowered final course grade. **Students who cannot attend class as scheduled are advised to enroll in this course in a semester when full participation is achievable.**

Students who miss class **for any reason** are **required** to contact the professor by e-mail **on the same day as the missed class meeting**. The nature of the absence must be provided. The professor will reply to all such messages, providing the student with a confirmation that the message was received.

## Evaluation of Students

Test	20%	[a measurement of SLO 4 and 5]
Midterm Exam (Objective Section)	20%	[a measurement of SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7]
Midterm Exam (Essay Section)	20%	[a measurement of SLO 4 and 6]
Cumulative Final Exam (Objective Section)	20%	[a measurement of SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7]
Cumulative Final Exam (Essay Section)	20%	[a measurement of SLO 4, 5, 6, and 8]

**Grading Scale:** A = 94 to 100; A minus = 90 to 93; B plus = 87 to 89; B = 83 to 86; B minus = 80 to 82; C plus = 77 to 79; C = 73 to 76; C minus = 70 to 72; D plus = 67 to 69; D = 63 to 66; D minus = 60 to 62; F = below 60.

## Academic Honesty

All course requirements apply to each student, individually. Accordingly, academic honesty means meeting every course requirement on one's own, without assistance from anyone else. Any first violation of academic honesty results in no credit granted for the course requirement. The College administration is then so notified in writing. Any second violation of academic honesty results in a failing grade for the entire course. Again, the College administration is then so notified in writing.

Specific violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving aid on tests and examinations; submitting false information; and submitting false or misleading documents, including e-mail messages.

## Topics Schedule (assignments are in **bold** type)

01	Introduction to Course
02	<i>Understanding Poetry</i> and New Criticism
03	Origins of Poetry
04	Poetic Terms of Analysis I
05	G. K. Chesterton
06	Origins of Tragedy Thomas Becket
07	<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> [ <b>textbook</b> ]
08	Continuation of previous class meeting
09	Continuation of previous class meeting
10	Continuation of previous class meeting
11	Alfred the Great
12	<i>The Ballad of the White Horse</i> [ <b>textbook</b> ]
13	J. R. R. Tolkien and Poetic Analysis
14	Poetic Terms of Analysis II
15	When Is Poetry?
16	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
17	Poetic Analysis
18	J. K. Rowling
19	Poetic Movements
20	<i>Imagist Poetry: An Anthology</i> [ <b>textbook</b> ]
21	Continuation of previous class meeting
22	<b>Test on <i>Imagist Poetry: An Anthology</i></b>
23	“The Shadow of the Shark”
24	Challenging Poetry

25	Wendy Cope
26	Poetry Set to Music
27	Poems Grouped by Structure
28	Poems Grouped by Theme
29	Poems Grouped by Genre
30	Review for Final Exam

**Note: The Final Exam is *not* given early. Students who do not take the Final Exam when scheduled by the College may arrange a makeup date for the next semester.**